

By: Representative Weathersby

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 64

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE SIMPSON ACADEMY
2 FOOTBALL TEAM FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING SEASON AND FOR FINISHING AS
3 RUNNER-UP IN THE MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS
4 (MAIS) CLASS 4A DIVISION II STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.

5 WHEREAS, the Simpson County Academy Cougars Football Team
6 season finished as runner-up in the Mississippi Association of
7 Independent Schools (MAIS) Class 4A Division II State Football
8 Championship after a hard fought game against Lamar School on
9 November 17, 2017; and

10 WHEREAS, after trailing by 11 points in the third quarter,
11 the Cougars clawed their way back by playing with tremendous
12 determination to tie Lamar School and send the game into overtime,
13 but they came up short at the end and fell by a score of 33-32;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, the Cougars, playing in Class 4A for their first
16 season after competing in Class 3A for many years, scored an
17 astounding 539 points, the second highest in school history, and
18 the team was honored with 18 All-District, 9 All-State and 4
19 All-Star players; and



20 WHEREAS, the Simpson County Academy Football Team's
21 statistics were impressive, and there were numerous outstanding
22 plays by individual players, but the key to the team's success has
23 been the outstanding team spirit and year-round hard work
24 throughout the season; and

25 WHEREAS, the Cougars are comprised of the following
26 outstanding student athletes: Dylan Hallman, Michael Winstead,
27 Hunter Cline, Cole Weeks, Mason Kennedy, Caleb Garner, Cook
28 Weathersby, Austin Creel, Hooks Harvey, Zach Ainsworth, Bryce
29 Caughman, Jaylon DeVillier, Jacob Shows, Ethan Flynt, Seth
30 Lawrence, Ryan Welch, Blake Boleware, Hayden Cliburn, Andrew
31 Kennedy, Barrett Thompson, Parker Berry, Thomas Pepper, Corbin
32 Hosey, Preston Franklin, Vance Smith, Jr., Robert Grubbs, Keton
33 Cockrell, Owen Riley, Brady Kemp, Payton Keith, Jerrad Bridges,
34 Matthew Mangum, Daniel Pepper, Jimmy Anderson, Tucker Varnes,
35 Lawton Kennedy, Will Douglas, Noah Magee, Bryson Davis, Cole
36 Mcalpin, John Kilpatrick, CJ Jones, Jordan Taylor and Quinn
37 Caughman; and Head Coach Dan Napier; and

38 WHEREAS, the Cougars were led by 13 seniors who set the
39 example during practice, preparation and workouts; senior running
40 back Dylan Hallman was voted All-District, All-State, and
41 All-Star, and being a team leader who led by example, he had
42 perfect attendance during summer workouts and was a physically
43 dominant runner, having rushed 192 times for 1,753 yards and 23
44 touchdowns this past season; and senior linebacker and punter Cole



45 Weeks, a playmaker on defense and special teams, was voted
46 All-District and All-State, and he led by example by playing
47 through a fractured leg and dislocated shoulder during the season,
48 and was always willing to go above and beyond to do whatever was
49 necessary for the team; and

50 WHEREAS, senior running back and linebacker Cook Weathersby
51 played defense and special teams and was voted All-District,
52 All-State and All-Star, and was a team leader who played every
53 snap during the games with tremendous effort, and rushed 151 times
54 for 1,490 yards and 15 touchdowns during the season; and senior
55 defensive back Zach Ainsworth, a playmaker on defense and special
56 teams, was voted All-District and All-State, and led the team by
57 playing with relentless effort and work ethic, which included
58 having perfect attendance during summer workouts; and

59 WHEREAS, senior wide receiver and defensive back Jaylon
60 DeVillier, a selfless player who was willing to do whatever he
61 could to help the team, often played multiple positions in
62 practice and contributed on special teams; and senior quarterback
63 Ethan Flynt was voted All-District, All-State and All-Star, and he
64 was a tough and selfless leader for the team who often made
65 difficult option reads, as well as called plays and audibles at
66 the line, something few high school quarterbacks are able to do,
67 and passed for 964 yards and 14 touchdowns and rushed for 419
68 yards and 11 touchdowns this past season; and



69 WHEREAS, senior linebacker Andrew Kennedy, unable to play due
70 to a knee injury, still found ways to help his team by being a
71 leader who displayed his outstanding character by coming to
72 meetings, workouts and practices, despite being injured, always
73 striving to find a way to help the team however he could; and
74 senior offensive lineman Keton Cockrell, a starter at center, was
75 voted All-District and showed leadership, commitment, and
76 character through his work ethic during the summer, which led to
77 improvements that allowed him to be the center of an offensive
78 line that averaged 7.8 yards per rush; and senior defensive
79 lineman Owen Wiley showed leadership through his willingness to do
80 whatever was necessary for the team; and

81 WHEREAS, senior offensive lineman Brady Kemp, a selfless
82 player willing to do whatever he could to help the team both in
83 practice and in games, played an important but often unseen role
84 as the second team center as well as contributing on special
85 teams; and senior offensive lineman Jerrad Bridges, a dominant
86 blocker at offensive tackle, was voted All-District, All-State and
87 All-Star, and he was a team leader who often made his block, but
88 made it in a way that would motivate the team to succeed against
89 the opponent; and

90 WHEREAS, senior offensive lineman Tucker Varnes, a starter at
91 offensive guard and defensive end, was voted All-District and
92 played with great effort, fearlessness and led the team by
93 example, both during the season and during summer workouts; and



94 senior lineman, CJ Jones, a contributor on both offensive and
95 defensive lines as well as special teams, was a selfless player
96 who was willing to do whatever he could to help the team; and

97 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize
98 and commend fine student athletes such as the members of the
99 Simpson County Academy Cougars Football Team who have brought
100 honor to their school, their community and the State of
101 Mississippi:

102 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
103 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
104 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend the members of the Simpson
105 County Academy Football Team for their outstanding season and for
106 finishing as runner-up in the Mississippi Association of
107 Independent Schools Class 4A Division II State Football
108 Championship, and extend sincere wishes for continued success in
109 all of their future endeavors.

110 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
111 furnished to Simpson County Academy, Head Coach Dan Napier and to
112 the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

